

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 to 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing ~~[[a]]~~ data traffic ~~load~~ on a communication network ~~with an extensive range~~ comprised of network nodes connected via ~~[[a]]~~ at least one link line, the method comprising:

sending, to a data traffic monitoring system, loading information that is link-line-specific or route-specific;

ascertaining, in the data traffic monitoring system, a current data transfer loading value for ~~the~~ a link line or ~~for~~ a network node using the loading information ~~a data traffic monitoring system;~~

determining, in the data traffic monitoring system, ~~and sending~~ distribution information for the network node based on the current data transfer loading value ~~using the data traffic monitoring system;~~

sending the distribution information to the network node;

generating, in the network node, an allocation model used to divide ~~an~~ address information of data packets into separate address classes ~~assigned~~ that correspond to a plurality

of alternative routes leading to a destination network node, the allocation model being generated using the network node wherein each based on the distribution information; and

ascertaining, in the network node, an ~~the~~ address class from ~~the~~ address information for a data packet addressed to the destination network node; and

sending the data ~~packets~~ packet, from the network node, via one of the alternative routes ~~assigned that corresponds~~ to the address class for ~~ascertained when the network node has received~~ the data packet addressed to the destination network node.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein further comprising ~~ascertaining the current~~ data transfer loading ~~values~~ value is ascertained based on using a routing protocol in the communication network.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
transferring data packets having different transfer priorities over the communication network; and

sending, to the data traffic monitoring system, ~~transfer priority specific~~ loading information that is transfer-priority-specific; ~~to the data traffic monitoring system using the network node to allow the~~

wherein the current data transfer loading value ~~to be~~ is ascertained based on the loading information that is transfer-priority-specific.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~17~~ 14, ~~further comprising ascertaining transfer priority specific~~ wherein the distribution information is transfer-priority-specific using the data traffic monitoring system; and

~~sending the distribution information to~~ wherein the network node sends which distributes data packets having in accordance with a transfer priority in accordance with of the distribution information defined for the transfer priority.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
determining, in the data traffic monitoring system, destination network node distribution information for the network node; and
sending the destination network node distribution information to the network node.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
determining distribution information over time by extrapolating the at least one
previously ascertained data transfer loading value or ~~the~~ previously ascertained distribution information ~~to determine distribution information relative to time.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the distribution information for the network node comprises quota details that specify, for each route in a group of alternative routes leading from the network node to the destination network node, a proportion of ~~the~~ data packets addressed to the destination network node that is transferred over one of the alternative routes.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising:
using a random number generator ~~weighed~~ weighted in accordance with quota details ~~for assigning the~~ to assign data packet addressed to the destination network node to one of the alternative routes ~~for transfer~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the address information comprises source address information ~~identifying the~~ that identifies a sender of the data packet.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
in the network node, allocating ~~the address class~~ address classes based on stored address information from ~~the~~ data packets that were transmitted previously.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

determining, in the data traffic monitoring system, one of the alternative routes for the network node based on the data transfer loading value ~~ascertained using the data traffic monitoring system~~; and

sending route information describing the one of the alternative routes to the network node.

26. (Currently Amended) A communication network comprising:

a plurality of network nodes connected via link lines, comprising including:

an allocation facility for creating an allocation model based on ~~sent~~ distribution information, and for dividing ~~an~~ address information of data packets into separate address classes, each address class being assigned to one of a number of alternative routes leading to a ~~particular~~ destination network node; and

a data packet distribution facility for ascertaining ~~the~~ an address class for ~~of the~~ address information of ~~the~~ a data packet to be transferred, and for transferring the data packet via ~~the~~ a route assigned to the address class; and

a data-traffic-monitoring system comprising including:

an information-capture facility for ascertaining ~~the~~ a current data transfer loading value for ~~the~~ link lines or ~~the~~ a network node;

an analysis facility for determining distribution information for the network node based on the data transfer loading value ~~ascertained~~; and

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Serial No. : 09/786,738
Filed : March 8, 2001
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Attorney's Docket No.: 12758-006001
Client Ref.: 1998P02510WOUS

a transmission facility to send the distribution information to the network

node nodes.